

Results: A Public Involvement Report



Mountain View Corridor Environmental Impact Statement

November 15, 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT STATEMENT

The Call for Comments

Between April and September 2003, the MVC EIS team encouraged people to submit comments through the following activities:

- ✦ 6 Growth Choices Workshops
- ✦ 34 presentations
- ✦ 32 stakeholder meetings
- ✦ 40 comment drop boxes, a website, and comment line
- ✦ letters to numerous agencies, the five local Native American Tribes, and interested non-government organizations

Public Comment Review

The Mountain View Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (MVC EIS) project team would like to thank everyone who responded to our request for comments regarding transportation and growth issues in the study area. When you give your input, you are part of the process to develop a solution.

Gathering public comments to identify issues and potential alternatives, or scoping, is a critical part of the work we do. Your input helps us understand what is important to you and your community.

Response to our scoping efforts was tremendous. Approximately 275 individuals submitted a total of more than 700 comments.

We have reviewed and categorized all of the comments we received during the scoping period (April 15 - September 15, 2003). We will use the information you gave us to develop better alternatives for transportation facilities in the MVC EIS study area. Comments were received from the general public, local government representatives and agencies, and non-government organizations throughout Salt Lake County and northern Utah County.

Where Comments Came From

City/County	No. of Comment Records	% of Comments by County
Salt Lake County	128	49% of total comments
Magna	3	2% of SL County comments
West Valley City	18	14% of SL County comments
Salt Lake City	24	19% of SL County comments
Kearns	8	6% of SL County comments
West Jordan	26	20% of SL County comments
South Jordan	7	5% of SL County comments
Bluffdale	2	2% of SL County comments
Herriman	3	2% of SL County comments
Riverton	2	2% of SL County comments
Utah County	94	36% of total comments
Lehi	16	17% of Utah County comments
Saratoga Springs	27	29% of Utah County comments
Eagle Mountain	11	12% of Utah County comments
Pleasant Grove	33	35% of Utah County comments
American Fork	4	4% of Utah County comments
Other Utah Co. cities	3	3% of Utah County comments
Other cities & out of state	35	28% of total comments

In This Issue:

Public Comment Review	1
Where Comments Came From	1
Why Are Transportation Improvements Necessary?	2
What Type of Transportation Do You Want To See?	2
What Are Your Concerns About the Environment?	3
What Are Your Elected Officials Saying?	3
Project Schedule	4

Why Are Transportation Improvements Necessary?

What you told us:

- ☒ Commuters and other travelers have to spend too much time in traffic.

“Lehi Main Street is a serious problem (all day–every day). When there is a train running, there is no way out of Saratoga Springs or Eagle Mountain.”

- ☒ There is an urgent need for transportation improvements because of congestion and safety concerns. The studies take too long. Something needs to be done now.

“Expedite the study process in North Utah County. We have already spent three years doing the East-West Connector Study. We need an east-west connector immediately.”

- ☒ East/west access is insufficient and needs to be improved now.

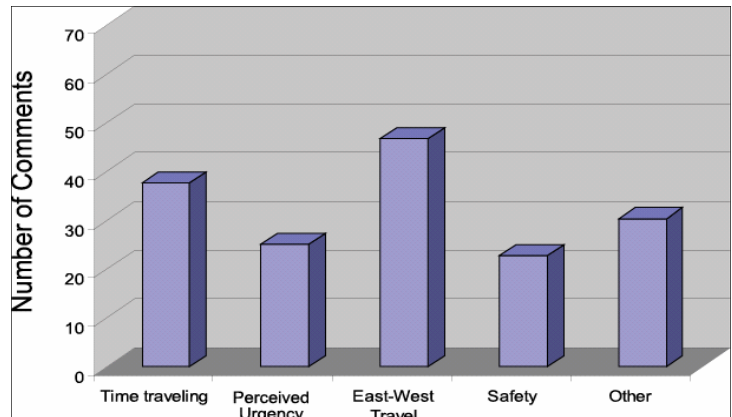
“East/west connections and congestion need to be addressed and fixed first!”

- ☒ The roads are not safe for pedestrians and bicyclists. They are too narrow and most do not provide a pedestrian or bicycle lane.

“Many roads out west are unsafe for bikes because they are so narrow. These include 13400 and 12600 South, and Old Bingham Highway.”

What happens next?

A purpose and need statement is being developed by the MVC EIS team based on technical analysis of traffic and transportation data, and existing conditions baseline data. This statement will be included in the Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) and submitted for public comment.



What Type of Transportation Improvements Do You Want to See?

What you told us:

- ☒ A multimodal transportation system that includes mass transit, trails, and new roads.

“A mix of transportation modes is needed. Integrate them with existing corridors and arterials.”

- ☒ Improvements to existing east/west roads and the addition of new east/west travel options.

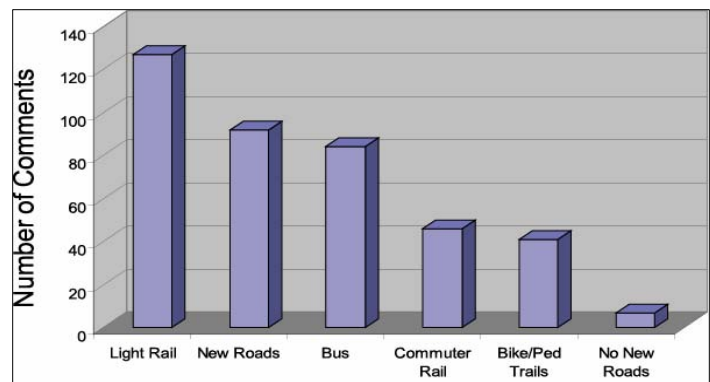
“We need quicker access to freeway from the west and east-west routes need to be improved dramatically to allow increased flow.”

- ☒ Improvements to roads and mass transit running north/south, including a new roadway/freeway on the west side of Salt Lake County.

“I would like to see the development of 5600/5800 West or improvement of Highway 111 into an expressway with a southern connection to Bangerter Highway. We need to improve Bangerter, making it a limited access corridor with SPUI's.”

What happens next?

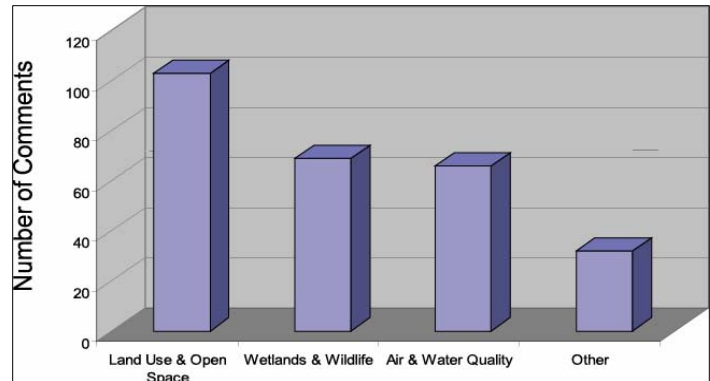
The MVC EIS team is in the process of developing alternatives for transportation improvements in the study area. Those alternatives will include the proposed alignment from the Western Transportation Corridor Study, the North Valley Connector Study, the scenarios created by Envision Utah based on the comments received at the Growth Choices Workshops, and other alternatives. In Winter/Spring 2004, the alternatives will be screened for feasibility and the impacts to the natural and built environment. Alternatives that pass screening will be analyzed further and presented for public comment in the DEIS.



What Are Your Concerns About the Environment?

What you told us:

- ☒ Development needs to be controlled and planned to preserve the foothills, open space, and agriculture.
 “Will the west side be a desirable place to live in 30 years? Or will it be so crowded and overbuilt that it will just be another urban jungle?”
- ☒ Wetland areas and wildlife habitats should not be disturbed or otherwise impacted by transportation development.
 “I don’t want to see any wetlands destroyed, or other wildlife habitats in the process of expanding the transportation system.”
- ☒ Air and water quality are important considerations when decisions are made about developing communities and building roads, including mass transit.
 “A big issue is water usage and it is not being paid enough attention to!”
 “I am concerned about cleanliness, pollution, and development. I am happy that Utah is a clean state. Let’s keep developing with awareness of preventing too much damage and pollution.”



What happens next?

The environmental concerns expressed by stakeholders will be reviewed and addressed during the screening of alternatives. This will take place during the first quarter of 2004. Viable alternatives will be selected and studied in detail for any potential impacts to identified environmental issues. Detailed evaluation of environmental impacts will be included in the DEIS, expected to be released for public review and comment in 2005.

The MVC EIS team is committed to conducting a thorough analysis of all issues raised regarding the Mountain View Corridor. The urgent need felt by the public for improvement along the corridor is understood by the MVC EIS team. When the Record of Decision is received and funding is secured the preferred solution will be implemented.

What Are Your Elected Officials Saying?

The MVC EIS team gave 22 presentations and attended 32 meetings with representatives from every city and township in the study area. The concerns expressed can be divided into three geographical areas:

Northern Salt Lake County: (Salt Lake City, West Valley City, Kearns Township, Town of Magna, West Jordan, Salt Lake County)

- ☒ Proposed alignment from previous study may not work for the area. 6400 West may be a better option in this part of the study area.
- ☒ Concerned about preserving the area’s wetlands and wildlife habitats.
- ☒ Would prefer to see a new freeway built.
- ☒ Need to consider planned and ongoing development.

Southern Salt Lake County: (South Jordan, Riverton, Bluffdale, Herriman, and Salt Lake County)

- ☒ The proposed alignment from the previous study has been incorporated into city master plans. They do not want it changed.
- ☒ Desire a freeway be built in a visually depressed area to preserve the view of the mountains.
- ☒ Want to preserve the existing trail systems and add new trail systems to the area.
- ☒ Do not want to be “left out” of mass transit development just because they are lower-density communities.

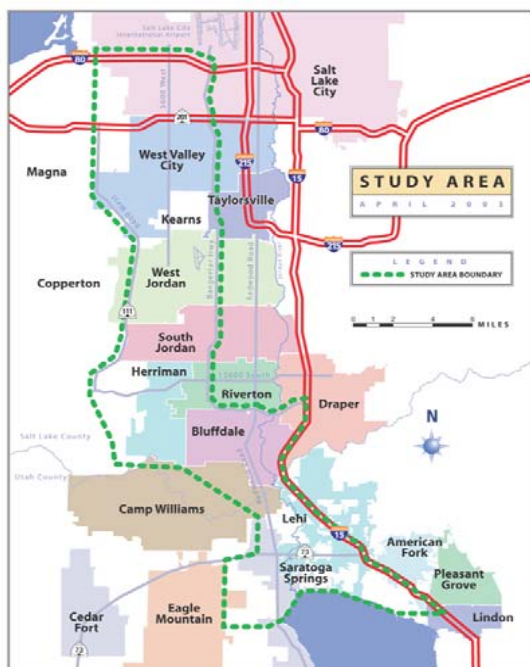
Northern Utah County: (Eagle Mountain, Saratoga Springs, Lehi, American Fork, Pleasant Grove, Lindon, and Utah County)

- ☒ Existing safety and congestion problems need to be addressed.
- ☒ Need a solution as soon as possible.
- ☒ Access to the west from I-15 is a priority.
- ☒ Prefer a new transportation facility be built south of Lehi if possible.



c/o Parsons Brinckerhoff
488 East Winchester Street, Suite 400
Murray, Utah 84107

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT

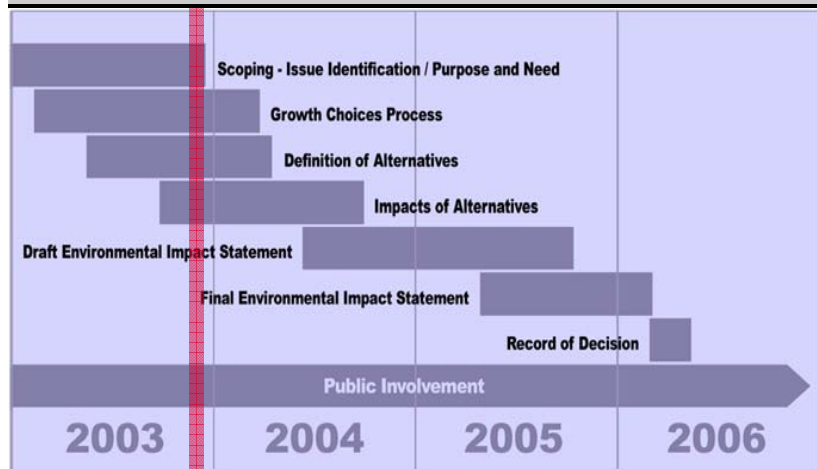


The MVC EIS study area begins at I-80 in north Salt Lake County and extends south to the Pleasant Grove Interchange in Utah County (6400 North). The east/west boundaries are Bangerter Highway and U-111 in Salt Lake County, and I-15 in Utah County to approximately 11800 West in Saratoga Springs.

Be Part of the Solution!

Leave your comments on our web site
www.udot.utah.gov/mountainview or
call 1-800-596-2556

MVC EIS Project Schedule



Next Steps for Public Involvement

The MVC EIS team will continue to accept comments throughout this process. There are several ways you can send us your feedback:

- ✎ Visit our web site (www.udot.utah.gov/mountainview)
- ✎ Call our toll-free comment line (1-800-596-2556)
- ✎ Send a letter to the MVC EIS team, c/o Parsons Brinckerhoff, 488 East Winchester, Suite 400, Murray, UT 84107
- ✎ Leave your completed comment form in the MVC drop box located at your city hall

Coming in Spring 2004 —Transportation alternatives will be available for public review and comment.

If you would like to receive project updates via e-mail, please let us know by logging onto our web site and filling out a comment form.